

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 2, line 18 and extending to the next paragraph ending at page 3, line 11, with the following amended paragraphs:

--Broadly speaking, J2EE can be conceptually divided into two areas, namely, application servers and applications. Figure 1 is a logical diagram showing a conventional J2EE space 100. The J2EE space 100 includes applications servers 108a-108c, and applications 106a- ~~106e~~ 106b, which execute on the applications servers 108a-108c. The application servers 108a-108c are essentially large blocks of software developed by individual developers that provide services for applications written to execute in their environment, thus simplifying application development. The applications 106a- ~~106e~~ 106b are smaller, less complex software applications that execute within the application servers 108a-108c. Since many of the services needed by the applications 106a- ~~106e~~ 106b are available through the application servers 108a-108c, application development is simplified and the application code can be less complex.

Further, the applications servers 108a-108c theoretically provide portability to the applications 106a- ~~106e~~ 106b, which allows any application 106a- ~~106e~~ 106b to execute on any application server 108a-108c. For example, a properly developed application 106a should be capable of executing on both application servers 108a and 108b with little or no change in the code of application 106a. However, not all applications 106a- ~~106e~~ 106b are developed to provide adequate portability.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8-17 with the following amended paragraph:

--According to the EJB programming model, a bean provider develops a set of EJBs
202 for an application and specifies the relationships between these objects. More

specifically, each EJB 202 includes a public application program interface (API) 204, which provides an interface to that EJB 202. Each API 204 is an interface comprising a plurality of methods that can be called by an application client 210 to interface with the particular EJB [[204]] 202. For example, an EJB for customer service may include within the API a method to determine an individual's credit limit. The application client 210 can then call the method using appropriate parameters, and the EJB [[204]] 202 will process the method call. In addition to the application client 210, other EJBs [[204]] 202 can interface with a particular EJB [[204]] 202 via its public API 204, as can web applications 206.--